Registration fee for patients

4721. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all patients who visit the OPD of the National Institute of Homoeopathy, Kolkata for treatment are charged a registration fee of Rupees 10 per patient per visit;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and since when the fee is being charged;

(c) whether Government are aware that the fee is a burden for most of the patients who are poor and cannot offered to pay it;

(d) if so, whether it is proposed to withdraw the fee taking into the account that the OPD services in all major hospitals everywhere are free; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) A nominal registration fee of Rs. 10/- per patient is being charged from the general patients towards consultancy and medicine in the teaching hospital of the National Institute of Homoeopathy (NIH), Kolkata. This is considered essential to improve the hospital care facilities. The registration fee is being charged *w.e.f.* 01.01.2005. No. registration fee, however, is being charged from the cases identified for research.

(d) There is no proposal to withdraw the registration fee. The Government is also not aware of the fact that all major hospitals provide OPD services including medicines, free of cost.

(e) The resources generated by the nominal charge of Rs. 10/- per patient excluding the research cases will be utilized to improve the patient care facilities in the hospital.

Trauma centres in the country

†4722. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether trauma centres are available in India;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government would consider to establish trauma centres; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Health being a State subject under the Constitution of India, it is basically for the State Governments to provide all required health care facilities including trauma

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

care facilities. However, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is implementing a scheme under which financial assistance to a maximum of Rs. 1.5 crores to the States/Union Territories is provided for upgradation and strefigthening of emergency facilities in the Government Hospitals located on National Highways.

In Central Gvoernment Hospitals, adequate facilities in the form of casualty/emergency services are available for attending to patients requiring trauma care.

Toxicant in drinking water

†4723. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the report of World Halth Organisation high contents of SNKHIYA (toxicant) beyond its limit has been found in potable water of some States;

(b) whether 8 districts of the West Bengal and 200 villages of Bihar are badly affected with the same;

(c) whether 45 lakh people of West Bengal are compelled to drink such toxicant water;

(d) the action Government are taking in the matter of higher content of SANKHIYA (toxicant) in potable water; and

(e) number of States where potable water doesn't comply with the health standards alongwith the district-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (e) There is no authentic information reported by WHO of high contents of SANKHIYA (toxicant) beyond its limits found in potable water. However, as per water quality survey ordered by Govt. of India the following States have reported occurrence of arsenic in drinking water sources as per details given below:—

1. Bihar	—	45 habitations
2. Chhattisgarh	—	11 habitations
3. West Bengal	—	4973 habitations
TOTAL :	—	5029 habitations

Details are given in the enclosed Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) & (c) 8 districts of West Bengal affected with arsenic contamination have been confirmed by the State Government. Regarding Bihar there is no information about 200 villages effected bv arsenic contamination.

(d) Action taken by Govt. of India is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.